

 Executive 4 February 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title	Tennis Development Programme at Victoria Park	
For further information about this report please contact	Mark Croston 01926 456231 mark.croston@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Cultural Services	
Wards of the District directly affected	Leamington Milverton, Brunswick, Willes	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	N/A	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	14/1/09	Mary Hawkins
Chief Executive	20/1/09	Chris Elliot
CMT	20/1/09	
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	13/1/09	Peter Oliver
Finance	19/1/09	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	20/1/09	Chris White
Consultation Undertaken		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report outlines the details of a project to introduce a community tennis programme in the district, based in Victoria Park and run by a local organisation known as VP Tennis. The project has obtained funding from the national Community Investment Fund (CIF) but in order to draw down the funding VP Tennis needs to demonstrate that the project has the support of all partners as outlined in the CIF application. Warwick District Council are one of these partners and are looking to support the project through use of facilities at a discounted rate and in kind support through officer time.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Warwick District Council enter into a 10 year agreement (with break clauses) with VP Tennis to deliver a community tennis programme using 5 courts in Victoria Park at a charge of £500 p.a.
- 2.2 Warwick District Council support the project through officer time and joint initiatives and marketing to a value of approximately £7,000 over three years. As part of the agreement VP Tennis will organise an annual community tennis tournament to tie in with Leamington's claim to be the home of tennis.
- 2.3 A further report will be brought to the Executive in the event of a proposal for floodlights being considered.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Over the last 12 months, Warwickshire Lawn Tennis Association (WLTA) have been working with local coaches and the Council to develop a funding application to The Community Investment Fund to develop a community tennis programme in Victoria Park. This project has been approved by Warwick District Community Sports Network and Coventry Solihull and Warwickshire Sports Partnership to go forward for funding. The agreement contributes to the Council's wider sports development remit and will provide a good quality community programme for the residents of the district. The tennis coaching programme, based at Victoria Park, Leamington will cater for children, teens, adult beginners and improvers, in line with LTA recommendations and the "Blueprint for British Tennis". The programme will focus on an increase in participation, focusing on targeting the following user groups:

Women and Girls
Over 55's
Young People
Increasing Volunteering
Increasing those participating in competition

- 3.2 In particular the project will work with local groups / residents from the Brunswick Ward, through the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre Active Coordinator to encourage participation from residents who may not otherwise consider tennis a possible opportunity for them. The project will develop links with local tennis clubs to provide exit routes for participants who wish to join local clubs.

VP Tennis will produce a timetable of expected court usage every term (6-8 weeks) and ensure communication with WDC to avoid 'double bookings' and to ensure

appropriate signage is in place to inform the public that the courts are reserved for the VP Tennis Programme. A minimum of 5 courts will be made available for public use at all times.

- 3.3 The agreement between the Council and VP Tennis will run for 10 years from the date of signing, although a break clause applies if either party gives 6 months notice to terminate.
- 3.4 The CIF funding will be awarded to the VP Community Tennis Initiative only if all partners commit to their contributions. This includes the in kind contribution from Warwick DC as detailed below.
- 3.5 At some point in the future through potential WLTA funding streams ,there may be an opportunity to develop floodlighting on the 5 courts allocated to the project. This would enable the programme to be expanded and enable tennis to be played throughout the year midweek. Any such development would require consultation with Planning Officers before any further investigations into such a development was undertaken.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The alternative is that Warwick District Council do not offer the in kind support to the project, however CIF funding would then be withheld.
- 4.2 The charges could be increased form those recommended, however the £500 p.a (subject to annual fees and charges review) is considered a reasonable fee in the circumstances.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 It is anticipated that there will be no adverse impact on existing budgets as it is planned that the use of the courts by VP Tennis will be utilising existing excess capacity.
- 5.2 The project has a value over the initial 3 years of approximately £24,500. This is made up of grants from Warwickshire Lawn Tennis Association £3,000, in kind support from WDC (£7,000) and the WLTA (£1,500), volunteer time (£1,000) and CIF funding of £12,000.
- 5.3 Beyond year three of the programme VP Tennis and WLTA will continue to resource the programme and it is anticipated that the growth in the number of users who regularly play tennis on the courts will enable the club to grow to a level that can sustain a fully programme of community tennis.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The project will provide the opportunity for residents to lead an active and healthy lifestyle and will contribute to the local performance indicator of increasing participation in sport by 1% year on year which is one of Culture Corporate Performance Targets.
- 6.2 The project will also help to meet the Councils Corporate Strategy aim to 'Increase participation and attendance in the council's cultural offering'